

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 L-03 AGR-05 EB-07 COME-00

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /047 W  
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R 151054Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3237

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 9833

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, IN, TH

SUBJ: PL 480 RICE PROGRAM FOR INDIA

REF: A) STATE 067702 B) BANGKOK 6876 C) NEW DELHI 4888

1. SALIENT SECTIONS FOREIGN OFFICE NOTE RECEIVED APRIL 15  
FOLLOW:

QUOTE...WITH REFERENCE TO THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT'S  
PROPOSED SALE OF 200,000 TONS OF RICE TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
UNDER PL 480, HAS THE HONOR TO INFORM THE EMBASSY OF THAILAND'S  
POSITION IN THIS REGARD AS FOLLOWS:

A. THE GOVERNMENT OF THAILAND AND THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
HAVE ALREADY AGREED ON THAILAND'S SELLING 60,000 TONS OF PAR-  
BOILED RICE TO INDIA, THE PRICE OF WHICH IS STILL UNDER  
NEGOTIATION.

B. ONE OF THE REASONS GIVEN BY THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
WHICH HAS IMPEDED AN EARLY CONCLUSION OF THIS MATTER IS THAT  
INDIA HAS THIS YEAR BECOME SELF-SUFFICIENT IN THIS STAMPLE  
FOOD AND THAT SHE ALSO LACKS SUFFICIENT STORAGE FACILITIES.

C. THE GOVERNMENT OF THAILAND IS, HOWEVER, CONVINCED  
THAT AGREEMENT ON THE SELLING PRICE OF THIS AMOUNT OF RICE  
WITH INDIA WILL BE SUCCESSFULLY CONCLUDED IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

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D. IN VIEW OF THE ABOVE, THE GOVERNMENT OF THAILAND STRONGLY FEELS THAT THE SALE OF 200,000 TONS OF RICE OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TO INDIA UNDER PL 480 WOULD HAVE VERY DAMAGING EFFECT ON THE PRESENT NEGOTIATION BETWEEN THAILAND AND INDIA. IN THE SPIRIT OF THE GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN THAILAND THE UNITED STATES, THE GOVERNMENT OF THAILAND WOULD BE MOST APPRECIATIVE IF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT COULD POSTPONE THE CONCLUSION OF THE AGREEMENT ON ITS PROPOSED SALE OF RICE TO INDIA UNDER PL 480 UNTIL THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THAILAND AND INDIA HAS BEEN FINALIZED.

E. SINCE THIS MATTER IS OF VITAL IMPORTANCE TO THAILAND'S ECONOMY, IT IS STRONGLY HOPED THAT THIS MODEST REQUEST BY THE ROYAL THAI GOVERNMENT WILL RECEIVE FAVORABLE AND SYMPATHETIC CONSIDERATION OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT.  
END QUOTE

2. COMMENT: IN SEPARATE EXCHANGE FONOFF OFFICIAL KAMTORN EXPLAINED NOTE WAS SENT AT REQUEST OF COMMERCE MINISTRY TO SUPPORT EARLIER REQUEST OF DIRECTOR GENERAL OF FOREIGN TRADE SUTHI (REF B). ECON COUNSELOR INFORMED KAMTORN SUTHI'S REQUEST HAD BEEN FORWARDED TO APPROPRIATE USG AUTHORITIES AND THAT WE DID NOT KNOW STATUS OF PL 480 DISCUSSIONS WITH GOI. THE LAST WORD WE HAVE ON NEGOTIATIONS IS REF C. WOULD APPRECIATE AN UPDATE AND INFORMATION ON WHICH TO BASE REPLY TO RTG NOTE.  
WHITEHOUSE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PL 480, RICE, POLICIES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 15 APR 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ullricre  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976BANGKO09833  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760143-0912  
**From:** BANGKOK  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760460/aaaabyhq.tel  
**Line Count:** 87  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 STATE 67702, 76 BANGKOK 6876, 76 NEW DELHI 4888  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ullricre  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 02 JUN 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <02 JUN 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <28 SEP 2004 by ullricre>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PL 480 RICE PROGRAM FOR INDIA  
**TAGS:** EAID, IN, TH, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006